



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim arriving at the 2024 Budget engagement session in Putrajaya yesterday. He said the suggestion to pay interns was made by a Form 6 student. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

35,000 POSITIONS

GLCs TO GIVE INTERNS RM800 ALLOWANCE

Policy introduced by the Finance Ministry sets a good example for private firms to follow, says PM

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GOVERNMENT-LINKED Companies (GLCs) will give undergraduates undergoing industrial training a RM800 allowance.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the Finance Ministry introduced the policy to set "a good example" for private companies to follow.

He said GLCs will open 35,000 internship positions, including for technical and vocational education and training (TVET) graduates.

"This (paid internship) was suggested by a Form 6 student and we agreed to it," he said in his keynote speech at the 2024 Budget engagement session at the Finance Ministry yesterday.

Recently, Anwar held dialogues with students at universities as part of the Temu Anwar series.

At an event at the Securities Commission in Mont Kiara, Kuala Lumpur, last month, he said companies should give interns an allowance to cover their travel and

food expenses.

However, he said the government would not set a policy on the matter and it would be left to companies to decide.

In February, Malaysian Employers Federation president Datuk Syed Hussain Syed Husman said making it compulsory for companies to pay interns would discourage employers from offering internships.

At the engagement session, Anwar, who is also finance minister, said the government would issue a Strategic Investor Pass to investors for multiple-entry to Malaysia.

This will extend the length of the multiple-entry visa from one year to a minimum of five years, with the option of extending it another five years.

He said the move was part of the government's efforts to ease matters for investors and boost Malaysia's attractiveness as an investment destination.

He said Bank Negara Malaysia had been given full authority to decide on the entry requirements for professionals. Previously, applicants approved by Bank Negara were required to be vetted again by the Home Ministry.

"At the end of 2023, MITI (Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry) will take the lead to reduce duplication among agencies that manage investments and strengthen the focus on domestic and foreign investors.

"MIDA (Malaysian Investment Development Authority) will co-

ordinate the goal of turning approved investments into realised domestic and foreign direct investments."

To address the critical skills shortage, Anwar said the government would expand the scope of the digital nomad professional visit pass to include manufacturing-related skills.

He said eligible professionals could move to Malaysia and work freelance for up to two years with the pass.

He said one of the goals under one of the key elements of the Madani concept, empowerment, was to establish Malaysia as a globally competitive investment destination.

On the 2023 Budget, Anwar said the government aimed to expedite the implementation of initiatives.

He said RM188 billion, or 49 per cent of the budget, had been spent up to June.

"This is better than 2022, but I feel it can be further improved by expediting public projects and speeding up implementation.

"We should reach 60 per cent (of implementation) by August."

He said decentralisation, allocating additional funds and easing processes were among measures to speed up projects.

Anwar also announced an additional RM600 in Sumbangan Asas Rahmah aid to help 200,000 hardcore poor buy essential food.

He said the additional aid would be paid out from July 17.